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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Woodbridge Urban Authority

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1937

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BY

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M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health for Woodbridge



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WOODBRIDGE

Gentlemen,

Herewith the Report for the year 1937.

The duties of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector have been carried out by Mr. W. J. Goldfinch.

The duties of Medical Officer of Health were carried out by Dr. W. W. Crawford.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Urban District of Woodbridge

Area in acres, 1,097.

Estimated population (Registrar General) was 4,851, an increase of 36 over the figures for 1936.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1937 according to Rate Book is 1,595, an increase of 65 on the figures for 1936.

Rateable value, £30,113.

The sum represented by a Penny Rate, £113 16s. 9d.

The Town is chiefly residential, and development is mainly to the South of the sweep of the by-pass road.

Unemployment figures in the Town still keep to a gratifyingly low level.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The following figures are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated population for mid-year 1937, i.e., 4,851.

### Live Births.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	61	30	31
Illegitimate	5	3	2
	—	—	—
Total	66	33	33

The Birth Rate is therefore 13.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 12.4 in 1936. The Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1937 is 14.9.

### Still Births.

Total	Male	Female
3	2	1

All the still births were legitimate. The rate per 1,000 total births is 43.5; the rate per 1,000 population is 0.62; that for England and Wales per 1,000 population is 0.60.

## Death Rate.

Total	Male	Female
65	23	42

The Death Rate, calculated on the estimated population for 1937 is 13.4 per 1,000; that for England and Wales is 12.4.

The Death Rate for Woodbridge during 1936 was 13.6.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age (total deaths 3) per 1,000 live births is 45.5; that for England and Wales is 58.

### Death Rate of

(i) Legitimate Infants (total deaths 3) per 1,000 legitimate live births is 49.2.

(ii) Illegitimate Infants (total deaths Nil) per 1,000 illegitimate live births is Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) None.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1 female.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) None.

An analysis of the age groups of those dying during 1937 shows that of 65 deaths there were 36 at ages of 70 years and over, i.e., roughly 55%.

The following table shows the causes of death:—

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	4	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	5	9
Congenital Causes	...	...	...	...	1	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3	10
Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	2
Senility	...	...	...	...	0	2
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	3	0
Tuberculosis—other forms	...	...	...	...	1	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	0	2
Ill-defined or unknown causes	...	...	...	...	0	1
Totals					23	42

### DEATHS IN INSTITUTIONS

Seckford Almshouses	...	...	5
Infirmaries	...	...	2
Hospitals	...	...	5
St. Audry's Hospital	...	...	3
Nursing Homes	...	...	5
Sanatoriums	...	...	0
Total	...	...	20

The health services of the district remain unaltered.

## Legislation in Force.

Local Acts, Special Local Orders, General Adoptive Acts and Bye-Laws Relating to Public Health in Force in the Area.

20th May, 1896.—Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.

20th May, 1896.—Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

22nd July, 1932.—Bye-laws in respect of Slaughter Houses (humane killer).

20th Dec., 1924.—The Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

1925.—Public Health Act, 1925—partly in force, partly adoptive.

14th July, 1925.—Tuberculosis Order, 1925 (Animals).

August, 1925.—Tuberculosis Order, 1925. No. 2 (Meat Inspection)

7th Aug., 1925.—Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations.

1st. Sept., 1925.—Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act, 1915 (Commencement of Operation) Order, 1925.

31st July, 1926.—Public Health (Ophthalmia neonatorum) Regulations.

31st. July, 1926.—Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations.

16th August, 1930.—The Housing Act, 1930.

1st January, 1931.—Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

25th Nov., 1933.—Public Health Acts, Amendment Act 1907, Section 83.

## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

There was no infectious disease reaching epidemic proportions during 1937. Below is a table showing the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases:—

	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	13	4	0
Pneumonia (all types)	15	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	0
Erysipelas	2	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0
	—	—	—
Totals	34	9	5

There were no cases of Diphtheria or Enteric Fever during the year.

The cost of treatment, prevention, and notification of Infectious Diseases during 1937 and the four previous years is as under:—

Year ended 31st March, 1933	£72 8 8
"          "          1934	£11 4 6
"          "          1935	£163 3 10
"          "          1936	£118 16 7
"          "          1937	£234 12 8



## Tuberculosis.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.
1- 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5-15	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15-25	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
25-35	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45 upwards	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	2	0	3	0	1	0

Two of the new cases, females with pulmonary lesions, came into the Urban District from areas outside Woodbridge.

### Removals from Tuberculosis Register during 1937.

Diagnosis not established	None
Removed to other districts	One Male
Cured	None

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925—  
No action required.

Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 62—No action required.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**Water Supply.**—The price charged for supply by the Woodbridge Water Company remains as in former years (15% of Rateable Value). The number of new supplies laid by the Company during 1937 was 90. Altogether there are about 990 houses in the area with a supply from the Company's mains. The remainder of the houses have a well supply, and all samples taken from wells have been satisfactory, except in two cases, where wells supplying eight houses were found to be contaminated. A water supply from the mains has now been provided to these premises.

There is now a regular analysis of the Company's water. Melton area in Deben Rural District is supplied by the same Company, and the Rural District Council have monthly analyses made. Similarly a monthly test is made by Woodbridge U.D.C., and by alternating these tests, a fortnightly analysis is made, which is of great value in keeping record of the satisfactory condition of the water supply.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The scheme for a combined sewerage of Woodbridge and the adjoining parish of Melton is in course of preparation, and an application has been made by the Governors of St. Audry's Hospital to have the sewage of that Institution received and treated by the Woodbridge-Melton Scheme. The matter is under earnest consideration.

**Rivers and Streams.**—The Naveru Brook, in addition to storm and spring water, receives sewage from some of the houses in Castle Street, New Street, and Bredfield Street.

This stream, which becomes very foul, has been periodically cleansed, but its use as an open sewer should be discontinued at the earliest possible moment.

**Closet Accommodation.**—There were five conversions from the conservancy system during the year, but all new houses have W.C.'s with septic tank disposal of sewage.

No of earth closets	978
No of water closets	about 700

**Public Cleansing.**—House refuse is collected by the U.D.C. lorries and dealt with at the Incinerator. In addition traders bring their refuse for disposal, and the refuse from Melton, in the Deben Rural District, is also dealt with.

Collected by U.D.C. Lorries ...	5292 cubic yards	1058½ tons
Trade refuse brought for disposal by traders' own vehicles ...	1156 „	231 „
Refuse from Melton ...	594 „	119 „
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	7042	1408½

**Night. Soil.—**

Collected from E.C. Pans	125,000 galls.	about 557 tons
Collected from Cesspools	70,000 galls.	about 312 tons
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	195,000 „	869 „

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

**Shops.**—Action required under provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature in shops and to sanitary conveniences has been taken in three cases.

**Smoke Abatement.**—No action necessary.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**—There is one Swimming Pool.

**Eradication of bed bugs.**—Five houses have been disinfested.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

**Milk Supply.**—Samples are taken by the Council's Officers. All reports have been satisfactory.

**Meat.**—Nothing to report.

**Plans have been submitted and work is finished or in progress on:—**

46 New dwelling houses
13 Additions to existing buildings
9 New Garages
1 Extension to Factory
<hr/>
Total 69

# 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	48
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					102
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...		21
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					38
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...			0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...			10

# 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...		10
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# 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a).—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...		Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—				
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners				Nil

(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—					
(a)	By owners	...	...	...		Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners...					Nil



(c).—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..    | Nil |

(d).—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..  | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. | Nil |

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.—

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (a) (i) No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year   | 5  |
| (ii) No. of families dwelling therein ... ..  | 5  |
| (iii) No. of persons dwelling therein ... ..  | 32 |
| (b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..  | 0  |
| (c) (i) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..  | 9  |
| (ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases... ..   | 53 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... .. | 0  |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the M.O.H. may consider it desirable to report ... ..                                      | 0  |

**Inspector's Report of Sanitary Work for the Year ending  
December 31st, 1937.**

No. of Complaints received	...	...	...	...	12
„ Houses, Premises, etc., inspected	...	...	...	...	186
„ Re-inspections of Houses, Premises, etc.	...	...	...	...	121
„ House drains laid, repaired, cleansed, etc...	...	...	...	...	16
„ Defective drains, etc., condemned	...	...	...	...	1
„ New Earth and Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	5
„ Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	29
„ Accumulations of filth, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	18
„ Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	1
„ Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	10
„ Structural defects remedied	...	...	...	...	16
„ Slaughter houses inspected	...	...	...	...	3
„ Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	5
„ Factories and workshops inspected	...	...	...	...	31
„ Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	10

(Signed) W. J. GOLDFINCH,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.



